

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

April 15th 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. investigation	a) questions organized in a study of a particular group
	2. majority	b) placed in a list of best to worst
	3. survey	c) to be exhausted and unable to do something properly
	4. burnt out	d) causing emotional and mental worry
	5. recommend	e) suggest somewhere/ something as the best option
	6. stressful	f) most, more than half
	7. rated	g) a formal study or inquiry

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who did the CBC study ask for their opinion about Canada's hospitals?
2. In general how do most people asked by the CBC survey feel about their jobs?
3. What percentage of people asked about their own hospital would recommend it to others?
4. In general how were Calgary's hospitals rated in the survey?
5. How many Alberta hospitals were in the top 10 hospitals in Canada?

Discussion Question

Why do you think nursing is such a stressful job? Do you think it has become more stressful over the years? What other jobs are very stressful? Why do you think many people still want to do stressful jobs?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

The words below are from the second news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) controversial	a) burial celebration of a life memorial
	2) union	b) disputed arguable under discussion
	3) stroke	c) large church place of worship basilica
	4) authorized	d) ritual formal respectful
	5) ceremonial	e) group working together alliance of workers cooperative
	6) funeral	f) to give permission allowed requested
	7) cathedral	g) medical condition loss of blood to the brain loss of consciousness

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

state industries – companies or industries owned by the government

military honours – to have the military present and the firing of guns as a salute and sign of respect.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Margaret Thatcher was a controversial leader in the UK.
2. ____ Margaret Thatcher led Britain for 11 years from 1979 to 90.
3. ____ Thatcher was called the Steel Lady because she broke unions and sold state industries.
4. ____ Thatcher died at the age of 78 from a stroke Monday in London.
5. ____ Queen Elizabeth II authorized a funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.
6. ____ The ceremonial funeral will be with military honours.

Discussion Question

Who is a great leader from your home country you would like others to know about?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

threats (warnings of attack)	striking (hitting / bombing)	launch (to set / take off)
recruit (to look for new employees)	tough (strong, powerful)	alarmed (to be scared)
prospective (possible in the future)	current (now, today)	means (ability, money)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

on standby – ready to do something

medium range missile – weapon that can strike up to 3000km away

1. The space center will _____ the space shuttle next year.
2. The company _____ international teachers to teach English in S. Korea.
3. The laws must be _____ so people won't commit crimes.
4. In my _____ job I have to work on the weekends, so I hope to find a new job.
5. The _____ career I want requires that I know about computers, but I don't have the _____ to pay for the computer classes I need to take.
6. We are worried about their _____ to attack our country.
7. We are afraid they are within _____ distance, but our government tells us not to be _____.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. North Korea says it has " _____ " on standby to launch.	a) powerful threats b) powerful striking means
2. The U.S. and South Korea believe North Korea is _____ a medium-range missile.	a) getting ready to test b) threatening to strike with
3. Canadians living and working in South Korea are _____.	a) very worried about North Korea's threats. b) not worried by North Korea's tough talk.
4. Canadians in South Korea say _____ is nothing new.	a) North Korea's power b) Pyongyang's war talk
5. Many current and prospective Canadian teachers have asked about _____.	a) the problems b) possible jobs and business opportunities
6. The recruiting agencies say it is _____.	a) business as usual b) it is safe

Discussion Question

How do you think the media affects what we think of other countries? Has the media ever unfairly described a situation in your country?

Language Focus

Identifying present continuous verbs and gerunds

Present continuous verbs - (be) + verb ending in 'ing'

When do we use the present continuous?

- To show an action is happening right now that will end in the future (You **are studying** English.)
- To show a definite plan for the future (I **am going** to take a rest later.)

Gerund – a verb ending in 'ing' that acts as a noun in a sentence.

When do we use gerunds?

- If we put two verbs beside each other usually the second verb is an infinitive (to + base form) but it can be a gerund. Only certain verbs can be followed by an infinitive or a gerund (like, love, want, enjoy, regret...)
- If there is a verb after a preposition, it will be a gerund.
- Gerunds can be the subject or the object of a sentence

To identify the present continuous or gerund:

- Notice verbs ending in 'ing'
- Look for the 'be' verb before the verb ending in 'ing'
- If the 'be' verb is present, the word will be the verb in the present continuous form
- If the 'be' verb is not present, the word ending in 'ing' may be a gerund
- Be careful, the word could also be an adjective (boring, exciting...)

Let's look at some examples adapted from the second news story. Decide if the present continuous verb or the gerund is being used in each sentence. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. There are more threats coming from North Korea.
2. The U.S. and South Korea believe the North is getting ready to test a medium-range missile soon.
3. The U.S. believes striking South Korea would be a big mistake.
4. North Korea's tough talk is not worrying Canadians who are living and working in South Korea.
5. Recruiting English teachers for South Korea continues to be a big business.
6. Teaching in Korea could be an interesting experience.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL 12 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for April 15 th .	0:00
Story 1	As part of a CBC investigation into Canada's hospitals, the majority of 740 registered nurses who answered a survey about their experiences on the job in Alberta say they are overworked and burnt out. While 81 % of nurses said they would recommend their hospital, they also had some serious concerns. The nurses say there isn't enough staff for them to do their jobs properly, and that their jobs are extremely stressful. Still, Calgary's hospitals are rated average or above average on the Rate my Hospital website. Four of the top 10 hospitals across the country are in Alberta. These four are: Sturgeon Community Hospital; High River General; Lamont Health Care Centre; and Banff Mineral Springs Hospital.	0:09
Story 2	One of Britain's most important and controversial prime ministers has died. Margaret Thatcher led Britain for 11 years from 1979 to 90. She was called the Iron Lady -- breaking unions, winning the Falkland's War and selling state industries. Thatcher died from a stroke Monday morning at the Ritz hotel in London. She was 87 and her health had been bad for several years. Queen Elizabeth II authorized Thatcher to have a ceremonial funeral, to be held at St. Paul's Cathedral in London with military honours.	01:08
Story 3	There are more threats coming from North Korea. North Korea says it has "powerful striking means" on standby for launch. The U.S. and South Korea believe the North is getting ready to test a medium-range missile soon. But North Korea's tough talk is not worrying Canadians living and working in South Korea. Canadians there say Pyongyang's war talk is nothing new and there is no reason to be alarmed. Several agencies who recruit Canadians to teach English in South Korea say they have been asked about the problems by current and prospective teachers, but say so far it has been business as usual.	01:51

Answer keys

News story #1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
g	1. investigation	a) questions organized in a study of a particular group
f	2. majority	b) placed in a list of best to worst
a	3. survey	c) to be exhausted and unable to do something properly
c	4. burnt out	d) causing emotional and mental worry
e	5. recommend	e) suggest somewhere/ something as the best option
d	6. stressful	f) most, more than half
b	7. rated	g) a formal study or inquiry

Listening

1. Who did the CBC study ask for their opinion about Canada's hospitals?

Registered nurses

2. In general how do most people asked by the CBC survey feel about their jobs?

They feel overworked and burnt out.

3. What percentage of people asked about their own hospital would recommend it to others?

81%

4. In general, how were Calgary's hospitals rated in the survey?

Calgary hospitals were rated average or above average.

5. How many Alberta hospitals were in the top 10 hospitals in Canada?

Four

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b	1) controversial	a) burial celebration of a life memorial
e	2) unions	b) disputed arguable under discussion
g	3) stroke	c) large church place of worship basilica

f	4) authorized	d) with ritual formal respectful
d	5) ceremonial	e) group working together alliance of workers cooperative
a	6) funeral	f) to give permission allowed requested
c	7) cathedral	g) medical condition loss of blood to the brain loss of consciousness

Listening

1. T Margaret Thatcher was a controversial leader in the UK.
2. T Margaret Thatcher led Britain for 11 years from 1979 to 90.
3. F Thatcher was called the Steel Lady because she broke unions and sold state industries.
4. F Thatcher died at the age of 78 from a stroke Monday in London.
5. T Queen Elizabeth II authorized a funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.
6. T The ceremonial funeral will be with military honours.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. The space center will launch the space shuttle next year.
2. The company recruits international teachers to teach English in S. Korea.
3. The laws must be tough so people won't commit crimes.
4. In my current job I have to work on the weekends, so I hope to find a new job.
5. The prospective career I want requires that I know about computers, but I don't have the means to pay for the computer classes I need to take.
6. We are worried about their threats to attack our country.
7. We are afraid they are within striking distance, but our government tells us not to be alarmed.

Listening

1. North Korea says it has " _____ " on standby to launch.	a) powerful threats b) powerful striking means
2. The U.S. and South Korea believe North Korea	a) getting ready to test

is _____ a medium-range missile.	b) threatening to strike with
3. Canadians living and working in South Korea are _____.	a) are very worried about North Korea's threats. b) not worried by North Korea's tough talk.
4. Canadians in South Korea say _____ is nothing new.	a) North Korea's power b) Pyongyang's war talk
5. Many current and prospective Canadian teachers have asked about _____.	a) the problems b) possible jobs and business opportunities
6. The recruiting agencies say it is _____.	a) business as usual b) it is safe

Language focus

1. There **are** more threats **coming** from North Korea. **Present continuous verb**
2. The U.S. and South Korea believe the North **is getting** ready to test a medium-range missile soon.
Present continuous verb
3. The U.S. believes **striking** South Korea would be a big mistake. **Gerund**
4. North Korea's tough talk **is** not **worrying** Canadians who **are living** and **working** in South Korea.
Present continuous verbs
5. **Recruiting** English teachers for South Korea continues to be a big business. **Gerund**
6. **Teaching** in Korea could be an **interesting** experience. **Gerund and adjective**